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Appln. No. 09/883,557

Preliminary Amendment : dated June 15, 2004

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Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of providing a device, the cost of which is covered by a third party payor, to a health care facility and obtaining payment for the device from the third party payor, the method comprising the steps of:

submitting a request for the device from the health care facility to the third party payor for authorization of payment;

relaying the request for the device from the third party payor to a transaction facilitator, the transaction facilitator being separate from the third party payor and the health care facility;

utilizing the transaction facilitator for contacting a manufacturer for the device to order the device, wherein the manufacturer delivers the device to the health care facility; and

generating a cost claim for the device from the transaction facilitator to the third party payor.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the transaction facilitator includes an on-line website, wherein the step of relaying the request for the device from the third party payor to the transaction facilitator includes the third party payor electronically contacting the website.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of: receiving payment for the claim from the third party payor; and transferring funds to the manufacturer for payment for the device.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of submitting a request for the device to the third party payor includes the step of the health care facility electronically connecting to the website of the transaction facilitator to submit the request for the device.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of ordering the device includes generating an electronic message from the website of the transaction facilitator to the manufacturer indicating that an order has been placed for the device.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of the device manufacturer accessing the website of the transaction facilitator to receive the order placed by the third party payor.

7. (Original) A method of providing a prescribed medical device covered by insurance to a healthcare facility and obtaining payment for the medical device from an insurance provider, the method comprising the steps of:

submitting a request for the medical device from the healthcare facility to the insurance provider for authorization;

relaying the request for the medical device from the insurance provider to a transaction facilitator, the transaction facilitator being separate from the insurance provider and the healthcare facility;

utilizing the transaction facilitator to electronically contact a manufacturer for the medical device to order the medical device, wherein the manufacturer delivers the medical device to the healthcare facility; and

generating a claim for the medical device from the transaction facilitator to the insurance provider

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the transaction facilitator includes an on-line website, wherein the step of relaying the request for the medical device from the insurance provider to the transaction facilitator includes the insurance provider electronically contacting the website.

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9. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:
receiving payment for the claim from the insurance provider; and
transferring funds to the device manufacturer for payment for the medical
device.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of submitting a
request for the medical device to the insurance company includes the step of the
healthcare facility electronically connecting to the website of the transaction facilitator to
submit the request for the medical device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of ordering the
medical device includes generating an electronic message from the website of the
transaction facilitator to the device manufacturer indicating that an order has been placed
for a medical device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of the
manufacturer accessing the website of the transaction facilitator to receive the order
placed by the insurance provider.

13. (New) A method of providing a device for use with a patient, the
cost of which is covered by a third party payor, to a healthcare facility, the method
comprising the steps of:
electronically submitting a request for a proposed treatment and a preferred
device from the healthcare facility to the third party payor;
providing electronic authorization from the third party payor to the
healthcare facility for the proposed treatment;
upon authorization, relaying the request for the preferred device from the
third party payor to a transaction facilitator; and

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utilizing the transaction facilitator to contact a manufacturer for the device to order the device.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of authorizing the proposed treatment and the preferred device includes providing patient identification information and insurance coverage information to the third party payor prior to authorization.

15. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the request for the preferred device is made after the healthcare facility receives authorization for the proposed treatment.

16. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of authorizing the proposed treatment and the preferred device includes prompting the healthcare facility to respond to pre-determined treatment questions prior to receiving electronic authorization.

17. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the third party payor includes an on-line web site such that the requests for the proposed treatment and the preferred device are submitted to the third party payor web site.

18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the transaction facilitator includes an on-line web site such that the third party payor electronically contacts the transaction facilitator web site.

19. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of requesting the preferred device includes selecting the preferred device from a list of devices.

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20. (b) (w) The method of claim 13 wherein the request for the proposed treatment and the preferred device are both made prior to the electronic authorization from the third party pa or.